

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7249

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 1378

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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS PFOR JO SA

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: (A) AMMAN 1223, (B) AMMAN 1225, (C) JIDDA 1697

SUMMARY: CROWN PRINCE HASSAN RAISED WITH ME QUESTION OF HAWK FINANCING AND KINGS APPARENT DETERMINATION TO GO TO SOVIETS FOR AIR DEFENSE. WHILE ISSUE IS INFINITELY COMPLICATED BY LONG STANDING FUED BETWEEN HASSAN AND PM ZAID RIFAI, HSSAN FEELS STRONGLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN FAHD AND KING PRIOR TO KINGS DECISION VISIT TO US. HASSAN ALSO SAYS HE FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT DISASROUS CONSEQUENCES OF KING GOING TO SOVIETS AND STILL BELIEVES KING HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN LAST WORD FROM SAUDIS. ASIDE FROM WHAT WE DO ABOUT THE DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANTICE ISSUES IN QUESTION, (REFTEL) THIS EMBASSY FAVORS ASSISTING DEVELOPMENT OF ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN KING AND FAHD. HASSANS SUGGESTION WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH SOME CARE TO AVOID BLOWING HIM OUT OF THE WATER WITH HIS BROTHER AND ZAID RIFAI. NEVER THELESS WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION EITHER IN THE FORM OF PASSOIN A MESSGE FROM HASSAN TO FAHD WHICH SAUDIS WOULD BE ASKED TO PROTECT OR ALTERNATIVELY FUTHER PROTECTING HASSAN BY MERELY REPORTNG TO FAHD HASSANS CONVERSATION WITH ME ABOUT THE NEED OR ANOTHER MEETING. END SUMMARY

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1. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ASKED TO SEE ME MARCH 15.

HE AID PRIMARLY PURPOSE FOR CALLING ME IN WAS TO
DSCUSS QUESTION OF HAWK FINANCING.

2. HE SAID HE WS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT KING AND
PRIME MINISTER ON THE ONE HADN WERE GOING TOO FAR
AND ON THE OTHER HAD BEEN FENCES IN BY AUDIS EITHER
ON THE BASIS F A LEGITIMATE MISUNDERSTANDING OVER PRICES OR
BECAUSE SAUDIS WANTED TO BARGAIN. HE SAID HE
THOUGHT THE LATTER WAS PROABBL Y THE CASE. HE HAD NOT
REAISED QUESTION WITH ME BEFORE BECAUSE KING HAD
ONLY FULLY BRIEFED HIM WHEN KING HAS RECEIVED FAHD'S
MOST RECENT LETTER.

3. HASSAN SAID SITUATION IS NOW BECOMING MORE DISTURB
ING BECAUSE SAUDI AMBASSADOR PARTLY TO GET BACK AT
PRIME MINISTER RIFAI WHO HAS SOUGHT HIS RECALL, IS
SPREADING STORIES THAT RIFAI AND KING ARE NOT BUT SHOULD BE
SATISFIED WITH SAUDI "ORIGINAL AGREEMENT"--FOR \$300 MILLION.
FURTHER, RIFAI UNCLE ABD AL MON EM RIFAI SOUNDED
OUT HASSAN YESTERDAY ON WHETHER OR NOT HASSAN WAS
TILTING TOWARD THE NEW OPENING TO SYRIA AND ABD AL MON EM RIFAI'S
MORE FAR REACHING PHILOSOPHY OF GOING TO THE SYRIANS AND
SVOEITS IF SAUDIS DO NOT COME THROUGH.
NOW UNEXPECTANTLY ALSO WE HAVE HEARD STORIES THAT ARMY IS
NOW BEING CIRCLATED WITH RUMORS THAT HAWK DEA IS
OFF BECAUSE US FINANCING IS NOT AVAILABLE.

4. HASSAN TOLD ME THAT US DOES NOT HAVE TO DESCRIBE
FOR HIM BLOODY CONSEQUENCES OF GOING TO THE SOVIES.
HE IS DEAD SET GAINST IT AND FEELS IT WOULD BE AN
UNMITAGATED DISASTER FOR JORDAN. HOWEVER HE IS OT
SO SURE THAT RIFAI AND KING UNDER RIFAI'S
INFLUENCE WILL NOT DO SO, IN LARGE MEASURE BECAUSE
OF THE WAY EVENTS SEEM TO BE UNFOLDING.

5. HE THEN SAID HE THOUGH THAT FAHD WAS A REASONABLE
MAN AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE SOMEONE HAD TO TALK
DETAILS AND REALITIES WITH THE SAUDIS. HE WAS
PREPARED TO DO IT, BUT HE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO MANDATE TO
DO SO. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, HE FELT THA SOMEHOW
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THE MESSAGE OUGHT TO BE GOTTON TO FAHD THAT KING
HUSSEIN AND FAHD SHOULD HAVE AOTHER DISCUSSION OF
THE PROBLEM HOPEFULLY THIS TIME WITH SOME PLAIN
TALK AND WITH SOME DICUSSION OF THE ISSUES.

6. HASSAN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE
NEED FOR ANHER MEETING AFTER THE KINGS RETURN FROM
THE FAR EAST PASSED ON TO FAHD. THE TROUBLE WAS

THAT THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA WAS HOPELESS
AND THAT THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN BECUASE OF HIS
UNHAPPINESS WITH HE PRIME MINISTER WAS NOW UNRELIABLE

7. HASSAN THEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING WHICH
I COULD DO TO HELP OUT. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE BE
A DISASTER FOR HIM IF SAUDIS WERE TO REACT BY TELLING
KING OR RIFAI THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN "HASSAN'S MESSAGE:.
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE SUBTLE THAN THAT. RIFAI
WOULD REACTION NEGATIVELY AND SEVERELY TO HASSAN'S
INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIR. NEVERTHELESS HASSAN SAIDN

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HE THOUGHT THAT FOR ALL THE REASONS THAT DID NOT HAVE
TO BE ELABORATED ON, ANOTHER MEETING WOULD BE IN US-JORDANIAN
AND SAUDI INTEREST SHOULD BE TRIED.

HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE DAHD COME TO AMMAN AND STAY
WITH HIM IF IT COULD SOMEHOW BE WORKED OUT.

8. I TOLD HASSAN THE QUESTION RAISED SOME DELICATE
POINTS AND THAT I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
HASSAN SAID HE THOUGHT MAYBE IF OUR AMBASSADOR IN
JIDDA COULD PASS ON A MESSAGE FROM HIM TO FADH
PHRASED MORE OR LESS IN TERMS OS WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME,
HE COULD LIVE WITH THAT, PARTICULARLY IF SAUDIS WOULD
NOT QUOTE HIM (HASSAN) TO KING OR RIFAI AS THE ORIGINATOR
OF THE IDEA.

9. HASSAN'A APPROACH RAISES A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS.
APART FROM WAT EVER WASHINGTON DECIDES TO DO ON THE

SUBSTANCE AS A RESULT OF THE VARIOUS AND DIFFERING SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE FROM AMMAN AND JIDDA, THERE IS THE SEPARATE AND DIFFERENT ISSUE OF WHETHER WE PLAY A ROLE IN FACILITATING ONE MORE SAUDI-JORDANIAN MEETING ON THE SUBJECT. THE KING HAS INSISTED TO ME THAT HE CONSIDERS THE ISSUE IS "CLOSED" AND REITERATED THAT POINT. WE HAVE SOME INDICATION THAT FAHD DOES NOT CONSIDER IT SO AND IT SEEMS TO BE THE UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT THAT SAUDIS WOULD NOT SUPPORT OR PAY FOR THE JORDANIANS GOING TO THE SOVIETS MUCH LESS STAND BY QUIETLY AND SEE IT HAPPEN.

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10. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MAKING OUR OWN AND SAUDI VIEWS ON SUCH A STEP KNOWN AGAIN HERE, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. HOWEVER IN RESPONSE TO KING'S RECENT LETTER TO FAHD SUGGESTING THAT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE THE SAUDI MONEY AND GO ELSEWHERE (THE SOVIETS) THERE MIGHT BE SOME MORE THAN MINIMAL VALUE IN HAVING THE TWO SIDES ALSO GET TOGETHER ON THAT ALTERNATIVE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE CURRENT DIFFERENCES OVER PRICING AND WHO AGREED WITH WHOM ABOUT WHAT ON THE WHOLE DEAL FROM THE BEGINNING.

11. IF SUCH IS THE CASE, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES WOULD SEEM TO BE (A) FOR THE EMBASSY TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO FAHD FROM HASSAN WHICH SUGGESTS ANOTHER MEETING BUT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HASSAN'S POSITION WOULD BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED IF IT BECAME KNOWN, OR (B) ALTERNATIVELY HAVING THE US SUGGEST THE UTILITY OF FAHD GETTING TOGETHER WITH THE KING ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HASSAN HAS TOLD US ABOUT HIS CONCERN AND FEELINGS ON THE QUESTION.

12. IN ADDITION, HASSAN TELLS ME KING WILL BE STOPPING TO SEE THE SHAH ON MARCH 17 ON THE WAY HOME FROM FAR EAST. HE SUGGESTED THAT SHAH MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL IN TALKING TO KING ABOUT DANGERS OF GOING TO SOVIETS FOR SOMETHING AS SIGNIFICANT AS A MISSILE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HASSAN SAID HELICOPTERS AND BUSES ARE ONE THING BUT MISSILE AIR DEFENSE IS SOMETHING ELSE.

13. DO NOT KNOW WHAT DEPARTMENT REACTION WOULD BE TO TOUCHING BASE WITH SHAH WITH SUCH A SUGGESTION IN MIND. IN PART, I BELIEVE, KING HAS LOOKED TO SHAH'S MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS AS ONE EXAMPLE OF WAY HE HIMSELF MIGHT PROCEED, ALTHOUGH HE HAS OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT SHAH HAS NOT BECOME DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS AND HAS ONLY BOUGHT LIMITED NUMBER OF GROUND FORCE ITEMS WHICH INCLUDE,

AS FAR AS WE CAN RECALL, NOTHING SOPHISTICATED
OR OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE. IF SHAH COULD BE PERSUADED
TO EXPRESS HIS OWN PHILOSOPHY IN DEALING WITH SOVIETS
TO HUSSEIN, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A STEP FORWARD IN THE
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THE PROCESS.

14. HASSAN HAS ASKED TO SEE ME AGAIN IN LATE AFTER-
NOON TODAY. AT THAT TIME I WILL TELL HIM THAT AFTER
THINKING ABOUT HIS REQUEST, I HAVE PASSED ON TO
WASHINGTON MY THOUGHTS THAT A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL
AND RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SHOULD AGREE TO PASS ON IN CONFIDENCE
A MESSAGE FROM HASSAN TO FAHD IN THAT SENSE SHOULD HASSAN DESIRE
TO DO SO. OBVIOUSLY ANY INITIAL REACTION BEFORE THAT
TIME (1700 LOCAL) WOULD BE MOST
APPRECIATED.

15. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT PASS JIDDA.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AIR DEFENSE, FINANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MISSILES, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN01378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-2438
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760362/aaaacchi.tel
Line Count: 247
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 AMMAN 1223, 76 AMMAN 1225, 76 JIDDA 1697
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 14 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; WITHDRAWN <16 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <14 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HAWK FINANCING
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, SA, US, UR, (HASSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006